

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 L-03

INT-05 JUSE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /067 W

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R 230656Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7119

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TAIPEI 6244

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, TW, US

SUBJECT: ROC FISHING VESSEL SEIZED OFF ALASKA

REF: (A) TAIPEI 6039 (B) STATE 222792

1. DIRECTOR OF TAIWAN FISHERIES BUREAU T.Y. YAO (YAO TAO-YI) HAS ASKED EMBASSY TO CONVEY FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO DEPARTMENT IN CONNECTION WITH SEIZURE OF TONG HONG NO. 3. THE INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY MR. YAO BY THE VESSEL'S CAPTAIN ON SEPTEMBER 17, BY TELEPHONE. EMBASSY, OF COURSE, CANNOT VOUCH FOR INFORMATION BUT WE ASSUME CAPTAIN'S STATEMENTS CAN BE VERIFIED AT LEAST IN PART BY EXAMINATION OF VESSEL'S LOGS.

2. SUBSTANCE OF CAPTAIN'S STATEMENT TO MR. YAO WAS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) CLUTCH OF VESSEL'S MAIN ENGINE WAS DAMAGED DURING FISHING OPERATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 9, AFTER WHICH THE VESSEL WAS DRIFTING. CLUTCH DAMAGE WAS LOGGED IN ENGINE BOOK IN ENGINE DEPARTMENT. AT SAME TIME VESSEL HAD HOISTED THE "ENGINE BROKEN DOWN" FLAG ON THE FOREMAST IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW. WHEN U.S. COAST GUARD OFFICERS BOARDED THE VESSEL THEY CHECKED THE ENGINE AND FOUND THE CLUTCH TO
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BE DAMAGED.

(B) RECOVERY OF THE FISHING GEAR (BY MECHANICAL WINCHES) COULD NOT BE EFFECTED BECAUSE OF THE ENGINE TROUBLE, AND

FIVE SETS OF HOOKS AND LINES DRIFTED COASTWARDS INTO THE 12-MILE ZONE; THE VESSEL ITSELF, HOWEVER, REMAINED OUTSIDE THE 12-MILE ZONE.

(C) PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE DRIFTING VESSEL WERE TAKEN BY THE CREW OF A U.S. HELICOPTER. THESE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOW NO SPLASH FROM STERN OF VESSEL, INDICATING THAT IT HAD LOST POWER AND WAS ADRIFT.

(D) CAPTAIN AND ENTIRE CREW OF THE VESSEL ARE TAIWANESE. SOME CREW MEMBERS ARE TAIWAN ABORIGINES WHO CAN SPEAK JAPANESE. WHEN U.S. OFFICERS HEARD SOME OF CREW SPEAKING JAPANESE THEY THOUGHT THE VESSEL MIGHT HAVE SOME CONNECTION WITH JAPAN. IN FACT, THERE IS NO RELATION BETWEEN THE VESSEL AND JAPAN.
UNGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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